

18 October 1954

ILLEGIB

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the DD/I (Planning)

SUBJECT: Exploitation of Captured World War II Documents

1. German Documents

a. From 1946 to 1950 captured German documents were systematically exploited by FID and its predecessor units for information on the USSR and Eastern Europe. Industrial data were extracted and reported in card form. The resulting "Industrial Card File" amounting to over 40,000 cards were turned over to OCD and is now available in the Industrial Register. The industrial cards contained all of the following information which was available in the documents; name of plant, location, description (including construction and additions), output, capacity, machinery, raw materials, power installations, manpower (skilled and unskilled), working conditions, operational procedures, consumers of production and transportation facilities.

b. Special studies in depth were produced as follows:

9 covering USSR industries and industrial complexes

18 over-all studies covering USSR natural resources and raw material deposits

17 covering Soviet armament industry and production

5 general surveys on USSR industries and transportation

3 covering USSR waterways

6 analyses of USSR railroad routes and capabilities

11 covering USSR telecommunications systems

4 covering USSR telecommunications equipment

15 detailed reports on USSR military-geographic data

2 on USSR weather conditions

Nazi/Japanese War Crimes Task Force review completed

c. Pertinent documents were exploited for full and detailed data on Soviet transportation. Forty-two studies were produced covering all of the Soviet railroad systems.

I believe this comprehensive program gave complete coverage of the German documents for economic and geographic information on the USSR. All available high level documents representing German finished intelligence were fully exploited. Some lower echelon documents may be found which were not exploited but I believe that their contents would add little to the information already produced.

d. As you know, political exploitation of the documents was done by other organizations and currently the War Documentation Project is underway in which the documents are being searched for sociological-psychological information which can be used in current and future programs.

2. Japanese Documents

Captured Japanese documents have been screened, accessioned, and exploited systematically for information of intelligence significance in accordance with requirements served on the division and the broad directives of Army and Navy. The main areas for which these documents have been exploited are Eastern USSR and Manchuria in depth; and China, Southeast Asia, Japan and Korea to a lesser degree.

About 195 WDC accession lists of the captured Japanese documents were published and disseminated as follows:

Technical	34
Special	29
Economic	51
Political	34
Medical	6
Geographic	12
Army/Navy - general	8
Air Technical	11
Miscellaneous	3
Signal Communications	4
Meteorology	3

The earliest summaries dealing mostly with Japan dealt with the following subjects:

General	4
Medical	1
Army/Navy - general	1
Special medical	1 (plus 1 supplement)
Miscellaneous	1

A program for the systematic exploitation of Japanese captured documents for industrial information on Eastern USSR and Manchuria covered the following subjects which were entered on Industrial Card File cards and eventually deposited in IR/OCD:

Shipbuilding and repair plants
Railroad stock manufacturing and repair plants
Ordnance plants
Petroleum industry
Iron, steel, coke industry
Electronics industry
Lumber industry
Coal fields
Machine building industry
Mineral deposits and processing plants
Electric power plants
Chemical plants

A total of about 50,000 ICF cards were prepared on the USSR and about 2,500 ICF cards on Manchuria.

An estimated 750 IFC and RIC summaries, Translations, [redacted] have been published covering the following subjects for which complete exploitation or full translation of selected documents have been made:

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Eastern USSR

1. Railroads East of the Urals and Trans-Siberian Railroad
2. Inland waterways
3. Heavy industries
4. Major rivers
5. Soviet Far East ports and harbors
6. Agriculture and forestry in Eastern USSR
7. Currency, prices and commerce in the Soviet Far East
8. Military topographic studies of the Soviet Far East
9. Meteorological information of Eastern USSR

China

1. General resources, agriculture and livestock in Sinkiang
2. Manchurian railway system
3. Yellow River survey reports for hydroelectric development
4. Natural resources of Manchuria and Meng-chiang
5. Meteorological information on China and Outer Mongolia
6. Manchurian airfields
7. Secret societies of China
8. Japanese economic development of Manchuria
9. Transportation and rolling stock in China (statistical information)

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China (Cont'd)

10. Chinese industrial information
(statistical information mostly)
11. CCP activities
12. Petroleum consumption in China
(statistical mostly)

In addition, Japanese scientific and medical documents have been exploited dealing with USSR, Japan, and China. Several reports were published on Southeast Asian countries dealing primarily with topographic studies.

At the request of ORR, FDD screened 5,000 pertinent captured Japanese documents and selected 4,400 statistical tables containing information of interest to ORR and IR. These tables were produced as

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Outlines for projects on the basic economy of Thailand, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Indochina, and the Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia have been prepared along with a bibliography of captured Japanese document references. All these documents are in Foreign Branch, OCD. It is felt that these documents, or microfilm of them, should be retained for these basic economy studies in view of the increased interest in the areas by the intelligence community.

Coverage of Eastern USSR has been complete. There is no further need to retain documents covering this area. Although documents dealing with the China area have been satisfactorily exploited for statistical data, it is felt that further exploitation of textual material, especially for economic and topographic details, can be made. Therefore, it is recommended that the documents being held by Foreign Branch, OCD, not be released unless microfilmed.

3. There are still documents dealing with the Eastern European countries that could be exploited for basic information.

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Enclosure:

List of Reports Based on
Captured Japanese Documents